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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) VE

SUBJ: VISIT BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO PREPARE FOR

VENEZUELAN PORTION OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING SOUTH
AMERICAN TRIP

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FOUR-DAY VISIT TO CARACAS OF MESSRS. LUERS AND EINAUDI GENERATED HEAVY AND FAVORABLE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST. LUERS AND EINAUDI MET AN AMAZINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF TOP GOV OFFICIALS, LEADING POLITICIANS REPRESENTING ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL THOUGHT, PROMINENT BUSINESS FIGURES AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, ALL OF WHOM CONSIDERED THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD BE A GREAT SUCCESS. VISIT HIGHLIGHTED WIDE LOCAL INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY' FORTHCOMING VISIT, THE FACT THAT IT WILL BE GREATLY WELCOMED, AND THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO IT BY BOTH THE US AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS AND POLICY PLANNING STAFF MEMBER EINAUDI TO CARACAS APRIL 1-4 TO DISCUSS THE SCHEDULE AND AGENDA FOR THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO VENEZUELA WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY GOV AND ALSO BY POLITICAL LEADERS REPRESENTING ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, AND GENERATED UNUSUAL PRESS INTEREST. LUERS AND EINAUDI WERE RECEIVED AT BREAKFAST PRIVATELY BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HELD SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR, FINANCE MINISTER HURTADO (TWICE), MINES AND HYDROCARBONS MINISTER
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HERNANDEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY SCHACHT, AND

EX-MINES MINISTER AND "FATHER" OF OPEC JUAN PABLO PEREZ ALFONSO. LUERS AND EINAUDI MET WITH SENIOR FONMINISTRY, MINES MINISTRY AND FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE OFFICIALS FOR A LENGTHY WORKING SESSION AT THE FONMINISTRY ON APRIL 3, AND WERE ENTERTAINED AT LUNCHEONS BY VICE MINISTER RAPHAEL AND SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS; BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS LEPAGE, AND ALSO BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY SCHACHT. LUERS AND EINAUDI ALSO MET WITH SECRETARY GENERAL CANACHE MATA AND TWO OTHER TOP OFFICERS OF THE RULING ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS, AND DINED INFORMALLY WITH PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ALVAREZ PAZ AND THREE OTHER LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION COPEI PARTY. LUERS ALSO BREAK-FASTED PRIVATELY WITH MAS DEPUTY JOSE VICENTE RANGEL, A LEADING FIGURE OF THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT. LUERS AND EINAUDI WERE THE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A LARGE RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE CHARGE ATTENDED BY OVER 200 GOV OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND SECRETARY GENERAL SCHACHT; POLITICIANS REPRESENTING ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION; PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY; AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION. IT WAS THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THOSE WITH WHOM LUERS UND EINAUDI CAME IN CONTACT THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD BE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE LUERS-EINAUDI VISIT WAS VERY FAVORABLE AS WELL AS UNUSUALLY HEAVY AND DETAILED.

3. THRUST OF MEDIA COVERAGE, AS WELL AS OFFICIAL, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REACTION, WAS THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE IS GREATLY WELCOMED, AND THAT THE LUERS-EINAUDI VISIT DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY BOTH THE US AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO VENEZUELA.
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